



United Republic of Tanzania

REDD+ FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT: INSIGHTS ON OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FROM TANZANIA

POLICY BRIEF

NOVEMBER, 2012

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This Policy Brief is based on in-depth study and literature review on the potential of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) for Rural Development in Tanzania. It provides insights into opportunities for participating into broader activities under REDD+ and highlights challenges which need to be addressed to effectively make REDD+ work for the communities in Tanzania. The general objective of the study was to analyze how forest resources could be conserved to reduce carbon gas emissions related to deforestation and forest degradation, as well as to catalyze economic well-being of people who live around forest resources. Specifically the study intended;

- To investigate the existing nature and status of forest resources and land tenure at all levels.
- To investigate the values of forest resources and other resources (e.g. land, water) and their contribution to rural development.
- To conduct a cost-benefit analysis of different land use options focusing on agriculture, livestock and forestry.
- To assess gender roles and their implications on forest resource management and benefit sharing.



The analysis and issues raised in this brief are based on in-depth study conducted in Babati, Hai and Kilosa Districts in 2009/2010, and on literature review to capture current development on REDD+.

STUDY FINDINGS

Forest Resources and Land Tenure

Forest resources are abundant in Tanzania comprising of four main categories as classified by the Forest Act (URT 2002); national forest reserves managed by central government (protection and production forests, natural forest reserves, and forests on general lands), local authority forest reserves managed by local government (protection and production forests, and forests on general lands), village forests (village land forest reserve, community forest reserve created out of village forests, forest which are not reserved which are on village lands and of which the management is vested in the village council), and private forest (forest on village land held by one or more individuals under the customary rights of occupancy, forest on general or village land of which the rights of occupancy or a lease as been granted to a person or persons or a partnership or a cooperate body or a non-governmental organisation or any other body or organisation for the purpose of managing the forest). The result from the study showed that in all the sample villages there was at least one type of forest management regime.

It was noted that almost all of forests are facing deforestation and forest degradation due to socio-economic drivers. Major direct causes of deforestation and forest degradation in the study area were: settlement and agricultural expansion, overgrazing, firewood and charcoal production, uncontrolled fires, timber extraction, development of infrastructure. These direct causes of deforestation and thus forest degradation are indirectly driven by market and policy failures, rapid population growth and rural poverty.

Land tenure is among the critical issues in REDD+ as these have direct bearings on carbon ownership. Experiences from REDD+ pilot projects show that addressing land tenure and carbon ownership security is a pre-requisite for successful implementation of REDD+ activities. The study identified that land ownership in terms of land sizes varies greatly from one village to another. Furthermore the study found that land acquisition was mostly through inheritance. In some of the villages, land scarcity was high; implying that the opportunity cost of changing land use is likely to be very high.. The National REDD+ Strategy has identified land tenure security and the need for review and harmonisation of legal frameworks related to land and forests for effective implementation of REDD+ activities. Tanzania has a well defined legal framework for land tenure through the Lands Act of 1999 and the Village lands Act of 1999.

